Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 13, 15, and 17, as shown in the Listing of Claims below.

Please cancel Claims 7, as shown in the Listing of Claims below.

Please add claims 19-33, as show in the List of Claims below.

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)   An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit for inputting image information;

a generating unit for generating output limitation information corresponding to the image information input by said input unit;

a storing unit for storing the image information input by said input unit and the output limitation information generated by said generating unit;

a reading unit for reading a document, wherein the document contains specifying information for specifying the image information stored by said storing unit [output limitation information]; [and]

an output unit for outputting the specified image information stored by said storing unit in accordance with reading of the specifying [output limitation] information by said reading unit; and

an output control unit for determining whether the image information specified by reading the specifying information is to be output by said output unit based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, for controlling the outputting of the image information by said output unit in accordance with said determination, and for varying the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, stored by said storage unit, in accordance with outputting of the image information by said output unit.

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2.   (original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said input unit inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

3.   (original)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said output unit prints an image representing the image information on a recording medium.

4.   (currently amended)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said output unit[s] sends the image information.

5.   (currently amended)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a connector arranged to connect said apparatus to a network, wherein the specifying [output limitation] information indicates the storage location of the image information on the network.

6.   (original)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the output limitation information includes an output allowance page count, wherein the output of the image information is limited based on the output allowance page count.

7.   (cancelled)

8.   (original)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image information is inputted to the input unit from a source external to the image processing apparatus.

9.   (currently amended)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein outputting the image information is based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored by the storing unit with the specifying [output limitation] information read by the reading unit.

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10.   (currently amended)   An image output method comprising:

an input step of inputting image information;

a generating step of generating output limitation information corresponding to the image information input by the input step;

a storing step of storing the image information input in said input step and the output limitation information generated in said generating step;

a reading step of reading a document, wherein the document contains <u>specifying information for specifying the image information stored in said storing step</u> [output limitation information]; [and]
           an output step of outputting the <u>specified</u> image information stored in said storing step in accordance with reading of the specifying [output limitation] information in said reading step<u>; and</u>
           <u>an output control step of determining whether the image information specified by reading the specified information is to be output in said output step based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, controlling the outputting of the image information in said output step in accordance with the determination in said determination step, and varying the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, stored in said storing step, in accordance with outputting of the image information in said output step.</u>

11.   (original)   An image output method according to Claim 10, wherein said input step inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

12.   (original)   An image output method according to Claim 10, wherein said output step prints an image representing the image information on a recording medium.

13.   (currently amended)   An image output method according to Claim 10, wherein said output step outputs the image information based on the result of

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comparing the output limitation information stored in the storing step with the <u>specifying</u> [output limitation] information read in the reading step.

14.   (original)   An image output method according to Claim 10, wherein the image information is inputted to the input step from an external source.

15.   (currently amended)   A computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting image information;

a generating step of generating output limitation information corresponding to the image information input by the input step;

a storing step of storing the image information input in said input step and the output limitation information generated in said generating step;

a reading step of reading a document wherein the document contains <u>specifying information for specifying the image information stored in said storing step</u> [output limitation information]; [and]

an output step of outputting the image information stored in said storing step in accordance with reading of the <u>specifying</u> [output limitation] information in said reading step<u>; and</u>

<u>an output control step of determining whether the image information specified by reading the specified information is to be output in said output step based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, controlling the outputting of the image information in said output step in accordance with the determination in said determination step, and varying the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, stored in said storing step, in accordance with outputting of the image information in said output step.</u>

16.   (original)   Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 15, wherein said input step inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

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17.   (currently amended)   Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 15, wherein said output step outputs the image information based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored in the storing step with the <u>specifying</u> [output limitation] information read in the reading step.

18.   (original)   Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 15, wherein the image information is inputted to the input step from an external source.

19.   (new)   An image processing apparatus comprising:

an input unit for inputting image information;

a generating unit for generating output limitation information, regarding to an output allowance term of the image information, corresponding to the image information input by said input unit;

a storing unit for storing the image information input by said input unit and the output limitation information generated by said generating unit;

a reading unit for reading a document, wherein the document contains specifying information for specifying the image information stored by said storing unit;

an output unit for outputting the specified image information stored by said storing unit in accordance with reading of the specifying information by said reading unit; and

an output control unit for determining whether the time when the image information is to be output by said output unit is within the output allowance term based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, and for controlling the outputting of the image information by said output unit in accordance with said determination.

20.   (new)   An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said input unit inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

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21. (new) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said output unit prints an image representing the image information on a recording medium.

22. (new) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said output unit sends the image information.

23. (new) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising a connector arranged to connect said apparatus to a network, wherein the specifying information indicates the storage location of the image information on the network.

24. (new) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the image information is inputted to the input unit from a source external to the image processing apparatus.

25. (new) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein outputting the image information is based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored by storing unit with the specifying information read by the reading unit.

26.   (new) An image output method comprising:
an input step of inputting image information;
a generating step of generating output limitation information, regarding to an output allowance term of the image information, corresponding to the image information input by the input unit;
a storing step of storing the image information input in said input step and the output limitation information generated in said generating step;
a reading step of reading a document, wherein the document contains specifying information for specifying the image information stored in said storing step;

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an output step of outputting the specified image information stored said storing step in accordance with reading of the specifying information in said reading step; and

an output control step of determining whether the time when the image information is to be output in said output step is within the output allowance term based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, and controlling the outputting of the image information in said output step in accordance with said determination.

27.   (new)   An image output method according to Claim 26, wherein said output step prints an image representing the image information on a recording medium.

28.   (new)   An image output method according to Claim 26, wherein said output step outputs the image information based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored in the storing step with the specifying information read in the reading step.

29.   (new)   An image output method according to Claim 26, wherein the image information is inputted to the input step from an external source.

30.   (new)   A computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting image information;

a generating step of generating output limitation information, regarding to an output allowance term of the image information, corresponding to the image information input by the input step;

a storing step of storing the image information input in said input step and the output limitation information generated in said generating step;

a reading step of reading a document wherein the document contains specifying information for specifying the image information stored in said storing step;

an output step of outputting the image information stored in said storing step in accordance with reading of the specifying information in said reading step; and

an output control step of determining whether the time when the image information is to be output in said output step is within the output allowance term based on the output limitation information corresponding to the image information, and controlling the outputting of the image information in said output step in accordance with said determination.

31.   (new) Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 30, wherein said input step inputs the image information by reading an image on a document.

32.   (new) Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 30, wherein said output step outputs the image information based on the result of comparing the output limitation information stored in the storing step with the specifying information read in the reading step.

33.   (new) Computer executable program, stored in a storage medium, according to Claim 30, wherein the image information is inputted to the input step from an external source.

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